

Remarks

Favorable review is requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks. Claims 1 – 22 have been cancelled and claims 23 – 36 have been added and are supported by the specification and drawings. No new matter has been added. Claims 23 – 36 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1 – 2, 4 – 5, 13 – 15, and 18 – 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ainslie et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,761,699). Claims 7 – 12, 16, and 20 – 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ainslie et al. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections, and respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following comments.

Claims 1 – 22 have been cancelled rendering the rejections above moot. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejections. Withdrawal of the rejections is requested.


In view of the rejections presented, the following comments are provided. Claim 23 requires a slider bond pad for electrically connecting the slider to a gimbal, the slider bond pad having at least two layers. Claim 27 requires a slider bond pad extending from the front side for electrically connecting to a flex on suspension bond pad, the slider bond pad having a pad extension adjacent to the front side and a bond pad adjacent the pad extension. Claim 32 requires a slider, wherein the slider comprises a slider body and a slider bond pad, the slider bond pad includes at least two layers. Ainslie et al. do not disclose or suggest a slider bond pad having at least two layers or a slider bond pad having a pad extension adjacent to the front side and a bond pad adjacent the pad extension.

In contrast, Ainslie et al. disclose a lead termination 41 and contact pads 70. They are two distinct items. Contact pads 70 provide mechanical connection to the suspension 40, not an electrical connection. See Figures 4 – 7 of Ainslie et al. Ainslie et al. disclose that the contact pads 70 can include a corrosion-resistant film 78. However, Ainslie et al. do not disclose or suggest any such film for lead termination 41. In fact, lead termination 41 is not considered a pad, but a lead termination. Therefore, there is no disclosure or suggestion for adding the

corrosion-resistant film 78 described for the contact pads 70 to the lead termination 41. The distinction made by Ainslie et al. regarding the contact pads 70 and lead termination 41 cannot now be removed for the convenience of an obvious rejection. Consequently, Ainslie et al. do not disclose or suggest a slider bond pad having at least two layers.

Conclusion

In view of the new claims and comments presented herein, favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If any further questions should arise, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the number listed below.

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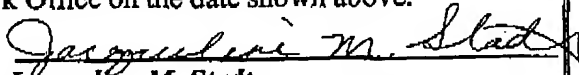
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CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.6

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I hereby certify that this Response and the documents referred to herein are being sent via Facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown above.


Jacqueline M. Stadt